# *A Funeral-Speech*

DELIVER'D

At the Interment of the BODY

OF

The late Reverend and Excellent

WILLIAM HARRIS, *D. D.*

IN THE

BURYING-GROUND, at *Bunhill.*

*May* 30. 1740.

By O. HUGHES, D. D.

Publiſh'd at the deſire of ſeveral friends.

—"Of whom the world was not worthy."

"Farewell, bright ſoul, a ſhort farewell,
"Till we ſhall meet again above,——
"Come ſov'reign Lord, dear Saviour come,
"Theſe ſeparating days remove."

*Dr.* WATTS.

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# FUNERAL SPEECH,

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At the Interment of the BODY of the late Reverend and Worthy

## *William Harris*, D.D.

May 30, 1740.

*IT is appointed for Men once to die!* according to the wiſe Conſtitution of the great God, this is the ordinary way of paſſing from one World to another. Death came in by Sin, and is now become a Debt, which all Men muſt pay to *ſinful* Nature: *There is no Diſcharge in that War*; nothing can ſecure from the Arreſt of Death; there's none *can redeem* his own, or *his Brother's Soul, from the Power of the Grave.*

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HAD we been equal to this; or could our Wiſhes and Prayers have prevailed, we had none of us been now in this *Place of Sculls*, on this ſad Occaſion: But—— Providence has called us together, to be affected with a freſh Inſtance of Mortality.

WE here behold an open Tomb, receiving the dear Remains of a moſt valuable Friend. We are come to pay this laſt reſpect to ONE, whom we loved and honour'd; to ſee his Body ſafely repoſited in the Chambers of Death; to take a final farewel Leave of him as to this World; for we ſhall ſee him here *no more*.——

NO MORE!—— The dreadful Sound awakens our melancholy Thoughts, and fills our Souls with torturing Grief. We mourn, we ſigh, we cry out, Alas! my Father!—— my Father, my Father!—— And with the higheſt Reaſon may we: for truly, *a Father in* ISRAEL *is fallen!* A pious and moſt excellent Miniſter of CHRIST is dead; one, who was *a burning and ſhining Light*. His great Abili-

ties

ties had richly qualified him for the ſacred Work; and a fervent Love to Jeſus and the Souls of Men had engaged him moſt heartily in it. A wiſe Head, an upright Heart, and a rightly-temper'd and well-conducted Zeal for GOD and Religion, had eminently furniſh'd him for great Uſefulneſs!— but— all this is now no more! it is all loſt from our World for ever!

WE mourn for the *Church* and *the World.*— Every pious Chriſtian, every uſeful Miniſter taken away, is a public Loſs. They are *the Chariots of Iſrael and the Horſemen thereof*; the true Glory and Strength of the Places where they live!— Nor can any thing ſupport under ſuch a Loſs, but the Conſideration that "GOD governs the World, and will, "no doubt, take care of his Intereſt in "it, whether Miniſters live or die." GOD can carry on his own Work, either *with* or *without* Inſtruments: and if he ſees fit to remove any, who have been very uſeful and might have long con-

tinued uſeful, he can raiſe up others; and *the reſidue of the Spirit being with him*, he is able to qualify them for his Service, to fill up the Places of thoſe, who having *ſerved Him and their Generation according to his Will, are fallen aſleep.*— O! *where is the Lord* GOD *of* Elijah! May a double Portion of the bleſſed Spirit reſt upon all ſurviving Miniſters! May we all obtain Mercy to be faithful, and to be ſucceſsful!

WE mourn for *ourſelves* too; as well as for the Church and the World.— We have ſuſtain'd a mighty Loſs! the Hand of GOD is gone out againſt us! He has weaken'd our Strength!— A *Father*, a *Brother* in the Goſpel, a tender and affectionate *Friend* is remov'd from us! His good Wiſhes and Prayers, his Advice and Counſel, his pleaſant and inſtructive Converſation we ſhall have the advantage of no more: there is an end put to all familiar Intercourſe, and the Interchangings of mortal Friendſhips between him and us for ever.— Here is the Spring from

from whence our Sorrows riſe! We love ourſelves, and therefore we lament our Friend's Deceaſe; his Death has wounded our Souls, and they cannot but bleed and mourn: *I am diſtreſſed for thee*, my Father, my Brother, my Friend!

BUT, let us lay aſide *Self-love* for a while; and ſuffer ourſelves to be influenced by a nobler, a more generous Principle. Let us ſee what *a real Affection to our Friend* will do for us; and whether it will not correct our Grief and Sorrows.

MY dear, my honoured Friend is *dead!* The Union of Soul and Body is diſſolved; the vital Bond is broke aſunder! O ſad and diſtreſſing Thought!—But, what has Death done? Our *Father where is he?*—Where is he! why

HIS deſerted *Body*, now an unactive lifeleſs Lump of Clay, lies here before us, ſeeking a Reſting-place in the ſilent Grave, *the Houſe appointed for all living.*— We accordingly commit it to this Bed of Earth, to ſleep and reſt here for a while,

while, in the comfortable and well-grounded Hopes of it's glorious Reſurrection unto eternal Life at THAT Day; when Jeſus ſhall come to claim the ſacred Duſt of his Saints, that precious Treaſure, from the Earth; and *Death and the Grave ſhall give up their Dead:* THEN *ſhall this corruptible put on Incorruption, and this mortal ſhall put on Immortality:*—— THEN ſhall it riſe with Glory, and Splendor, and Majeſty, out of this Bed of Duſt; revived, refreſhed, invigorated, and be again united to

HIS immortal *Soul*;—— which is already gone to GOD, joined (I doubt not) *to the Aſſembly of the Spirits of juſt Men made perfect*. It is happily eſcaped out of a World of Sin and Sorrow; removed for ever out of the reach of Malice, Pride, and Envy. The diſlodged, diſincumber'd Spirit has found it's native Heaven, has reach'd it's everlaſting Home, has enter'd the Regions of eternal Light, and is now partaking of the unmingled

Pleaſures, which are in the Paradiſe of God.

Is this the caſe of our departed Friend! has he exchanged Worlds to ſuch Advantage! are his Circumſtances thus better'd and improv'd! Away then with our Sighs, our Groans, and our Tears.— Let us congratulate the happy Soul, thus enlarged and thus advanced.— And tho', we cannot without tender Concern think of his being now parted from us; let us however rejoice, that the Separation is not to be eternal.— We hope e'er long to meet *him* again and our other Chriſtian Friends already deceaſed, with unſpeakable Joy, in the Realms of immortal Bliſs; where we ſhall be parted no more, but ſhall live together for ever with the Lord.

AND, in order to this, allow me to ſuggeſt; that we muſt improve all ſuch Providences as theſe, [the Deaths of our Friends] to the great Purpoſes of Religion, *viz.* to *mortify us to Sin*, the only *Cauſe* of Death—— to *wean us from*

*from the preſent World*, the only *Scene* and *Place* of Death— to make us more diligent in doing *the Work and Buſineſs of Life*, to which Death will ſoon put *a Period*— and with the utmoſt care to *prepare for the heavenly World*, from whence Death is for ever baniſh'd.

AND, that it may be thus with us; that we may be faithful and diligent in doing the Work of this Life, and may at length be happy in the Rewards of the next Life; let us unite our Petitions to the Father of Mercies, and direct our Prayers to Heaven——

*Infinite and Eternal* GOD, &c.

*FINIS.*